

Application No. 10/702,206
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A sorter/organizer, comprising:
~~at least three substantially planar walls arranged substantially parallel to one another, said at least three walls including a front wall, a rear wall and at least one dividing wall arranged between said front wall and said rear wall;~~
~~side walls connected to said at least three walls, said side walls each having a lower edge substantially coplanar with a lower edge of said front wall and being arranged to enable a bottom of said compartments to be positioned at varied heights;~~
~~a first, stepped bottom wall connected to at least three of said walls and at least one of said side walls, such that at least two compartments receivable of objects are being formed each by an adjacent pair of said at least three walls and said first bottom wall, said compartments being staggered in relation to one another and receivable of objects, said at least one side wall being arranged to enable a bottom of said compartments to be positioned at varied heights, said at least one of said side~~

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walls having upper edge portions connected to said first bottom wall; and

a plurality of ledges, each of said ledges being arranged at a respective end of one of said compartments, each of said ledges extending above said upper edge portions portion of said side walls and alongside a bottom of a wall at the respective end of said one of said compartments, said ledges extending only partially toward upper edges of along a height of said adjacent pair of said at least three walls forming said compartment such that at least one side of said compartments compartment is open above said ledges, ledge to enable received objects received in said compartment to extend laterally outward of a compartment therefrom above said ledge and such that an upper surface of said ledge is above a bottom of said compartment to prevent objects received in said compartment and contacting the bottom of said compartment from inadvertently slipping out therefrom.

2. (Original) The sorter/organizer of claim 1, wherein said first bottom wall includes an arcuate portion and a substantially flat or planar portion forward of said arcuate portion defining the bottom of at least one of said compartments whereby an object contacting said arcuate portion slides forward along said arcuate portion onto said substantially flat or planar portion.

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3. (Original) The sorter/organizer of claim 1, wherein said first bottom wall includes a plurality of bottom panels arranged at different heights and closure panels connecting adjacent ones of said bottom panels, each of said bottom panels defining a bottom support surface of a respective one of said compartments, said closure panels being substantially parallel to said at least three walls.

4. (Original) The sorter/organizer of claim 3, wherein said ledges are arranged alongside said bottom panels.

5. (Currently Amended) The sorter/organizer of claim 1, wherein said first bottom wall is connected to both of two said side walls such that ~~said compartments are defined between said side walls.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The sorter/organizer of claim [[5]] 29, wherein said rear wall includes a compartment-defining portion and support portions each arranged below said compartment-defining portion and contiguous with a respective one of said side walls, a lower edge of each of said support portions being co-planar with ~~said~~ lower edges of said front wall and said side walls, said compartment-defining portion having a lower edge staggered or raised with respect to [[a]] the lower edge of said

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front wall and an upper edge raised relative to an upper edge of said front wall.

7. (Currently Amended) The sorter/organizer of claim [[5]] 29, wherein said at least one dividing wall includes first and second dividing walls such that a first compartment is defined between said front wall and said first dividing wall, a second compartment is defined between said first dividing wall and said second dividing wall and a third compartment is defined between said second dividing wall and said rear wall.

8. (Currently Amended) The sorter/organizer of claim [[5]] 1, further comprising reinforcing ribs arranged on at least one side of said at least three walls and contiguous with one of said side walls and said ledges such that said reinforcing ribs have a surface coplanar with an outer surface of said side walls.

9. (Currently Amended) The sorter/organizer of claim 8, wherein said at least three walls include a front wall, a rear wall and at least one dividing wall arranged between said front wall and said rear wall and said reinforcing ribs extend inward from each of said at least three walls toward an opposed one of said at least three walls such that outer edges of said front wall and said rear wall are provided with an L-shaped reinforcing

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structure and an outer edge of each of said at least one dividing wall is provided with a T-shaped reinforcing structure at said at least one side of said at least three walls.

10. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The sorter/organizer of claim [[1]] 29, wherein said front wall includes first and second spaced-apart front wall portions, said at least one dividing wall comprising a plurality of dividing walls, at least of one of said plurality of dividing walls being arranged between each of said front wall portions and said rear wall to thereby define at least one compartment between each of said front wall portions and said rear wall, further comprising:

at least first and second transverse walls extending rearward from inner edges of said front wall portions such that a storage compartment is defined between said transverse walls, said first bottom wall being connected to said first transverse wall, said first front wall portion, said rear wall and a first one of said side walls, said first side wall extending rearward from an outer edge of said first front wall portion; and

a second, stepped bottom wall connected to said second transverse wall, said second front wall portion, said rear wall and a second one of said side walls, said second side wall extending rearward from an outer edge of said second front wall portion.

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11. (Withdrawn) The sorter/organizer of claim 10,
wherein said transverse walls are parallel to said side walls.

12. (Withdrawn) The sorter/organizer of claim 10,
wherein said transverse walls connect said front wall portions to
said rear wall such that said transverse walls and said side
walls have substantially the same depth.

13. (Withdrawn) The sorter/organizer of claim 10,
further comprising a substantially flat or planar bottom wall
arranged between said transverse walls to define a bottom of said
storage compartment.

14. (Withdrawn) The sorter/organizer of claim 13,
wherein said front wall includes a connecting portion arranged
between said first and second front wall portions, said
substantially flat or planar bottom wall being connected to said
connecting portion of said front wall.

15. (Withdrawn) The sorter/organizer of claim 10,
wherein said rear wall includes a compartment-defining portion
and a support portion arranged below said compartment-defining
portion, said compartment-defining portion having a lower edge
staggered or raised with respect to a lower edge of said front

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wall, a lower edge of said support portion being co-planar with lower edges of said front wall and said side walls.

16. (Withdrawn) The sorter/organizer of claim 10, wherein each of said first and second bottom walls includes an arcuate portion and a substantially flat or planar portion forward of said arcuate portion defining the bottom of at least one of said compartments whereby an object contacting said arcuate portion slides forward along said arcuate portion onto said substantially flat or planar portion.

17. (Withdrawn) The sorter/organizer of claim 10, wherein each of said first and second bottom walls includes a plurality of bottom panels arranged at different heights and closure panels connecting adjacent ones of said bottom panels, each of said bottom panels defining a bottom support surface of a respective one of said compartments, said closure panels being substantially parallel to said at least three walls.

18. (Withdrawn) The sorter/organizer of claim 17, wherein said ledges are arranged alongside said bottom panels.

19. (Withdrawn) The sorter/organizer of claim 10, further comprising reinforcing ribs arranged on an outer edge of

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each of said at least three walls and contiguous with one of said side walls and said ledges such that said reinforcing ribs have a surface substantially coplanar with an outer surface of said side walls.

20. (Withdrawn) The sorter/organizer of claim 19, wherein said reinforcing ribs extending inward from each of said at least three walls toward an opposed one of said at least three walls such that outer edges of said front wall and said rear wall are provided with an L-shaped reinforcing structure and outer edges of each of said at least one dividing wall are provided with a T-shaped reinforcing structure.

21-28. (Canceled)

29. (New) The sorter/organizer of claim 1, wherein said at least three walls include a front wall, a rear wall and at least one dividing wall arranged between said front wall and said rear wall.

30. (New) The sorter/organizer of claim 1, wherein said side walls each have a lower edge substantially coplanar with a lower edge of said front wall.

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31. (New) The sorter/organizer of claim 1, wherein said ledges extend from about 1/16 inch to 1/4 inch above the bottom of said compartments.

32. (New) A sorter/organizer, comprising:
at least three substantially planar walls arranged substantially parallel to one another, said at least three walls including a front wall, a rear wall and at least one dividing wall arranged between said front wall and said rear wall;
side walls connected to said at least three walls;
a first, stepped bottom wall connected to at least three of said walls and at least one of said side walls such that at least two compartments are formed, said side walls being arranged to enable a bottom of said compartments to be positioned at varied heights, said compartments being staggered in relation to one another and receivable of objects, said at least one of said side walls having upper edge portions connected to said first bottom wall; and
ledges extending above said upper edge portions of said side walls and alongside a bottom of said compartments,

said rear wall including a compartment-defining portion and support portions each arranged below said compartment-defining portion and contiguous with a respective one of said side walls, a lower edge of each of said support portions being co-planar

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with lower edges of said front wall and said side walls, said compartment-defining portion having a lower edge staggered or raised with respect to the lower edge of said front wall and an upper edge raised relative to an upper edge of said front wall.

33. (New) The sorter/organizer of claim 32, wherein said ledges extends only partially along a height of said at least three walls such that at least one side of said compartments is open above said ledges to enable objects received in said compartments to extend laterally outward therefrom above said ledges.

34. (New) A sorter/organizer, comprising:
at least three substantially planar walls arranged substantially parallel to one another;
side walls connected to said at least three walls;
a first, stepped bottom wall connected to at least three of said walls and at least one of said side walls such that at least two compartments are formed, said side walls being arranged to enable a bottom of said compartments to be positioned at varied heights, said compartments being staggered in relation to one another and receivable of objects, said at least one of said side walls having upper edge portions connected to said first bottom wall;

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ledges extending above said upper edge portions of said side walls and alongside a bottom of said compartments; and

reinforcing ribs arranged on at least one side of said at least three walls and contiguous with one of said side walls and said ledges such that said reinforcing ribs have a surface coplanar with an outer surface of said side walls.

35. (New) The sorter/organizer of claim 34, wherein said ledges extend only partially along a height of said at least three walls such that at least one side of said compartments is open above said ledges to enable objects received in said compartments to extend laterally outward therefrom above said ledges.

36. (New) The sorter/organizer of claim 34, wherein said at least three walls include a front wall, a rear wall and at least one dividing wall arranged between said front wall and said rear wall and said reinforcing ribs extend inward from each of said at least three walls toward an opposed one of said at least three walls such that outer edges of said front wall and said rear wall are provided with an L-shaped reinforcing structure and an outer edge of each of said at least one dividing wall is provided with a T-shaped reinforcing structure at said at least one side of said at least three walls.